

2/04/04

Valerie Nottingham
National Institute of Health

Brian & Linda Trescott
P.O. Box 1592
Hamilton, MT. 59840

Re: Rocky Mountain Lab in Hamilton, Montana and
proposed new use/study of world's most toxic diseases
and substances, etc.

We are opposed to the proposed new use for the laboratory
here in Hamilton, Montana. We are very concerned, in fact
frightened to death, at what would happen IF an accident
occurred.

Yes, the lab has a good safety record. But to err
is human ! There is no such thing as an accident or mistake-
proof person , machine or lab security system for that matter. We don't
want it and shouldn't have to have it forced upon us.

It also brings new threat to this otherwise quiet hamlet by
way of terrorist attacks. We moved here to feel safe. Is there
anywhere that will be safe to live a quiet life if things like this
are forced on us regardless of whether the citizens of this
area want the new changes? I have not spoken to one person
who wants the new usage of the lab.

40-1

If these diseases and substances must be studied, why not do it
in a safer place which is not next to a large body of water (the river)
and surrounded by people, schools, houses, animals, etc. How
about putting it out with all the other undesirable sites which
already have very strong security measures and safety precautions,
such as Hanford nuclear plant in Washington, or in Nevada's area 54
(or whatever it is called).

*LETTER 40 - LINDA AND BRIAN
TRESMOTT*

Comment

Response

40-1

Please see Section 1.7.1 where comments on
alternative locations were addressed.

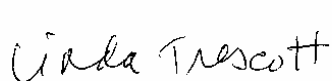
02-09-04P02:48 RCVD

40-2 { What is the plan if an accident should occur? It's not IMPOSSIBLE that an accident would occur, is it?

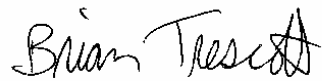
My husband and my health insurance rates went up by \$750 last year. At this rate we won't have insurance probably in the near future. A large percentage of people in this area have no insurance at all. What happens if we should need to get treatment because of an accident and are refused? What treatments are there for the world's most deadly & incurable diseases, anyway??????????????
A gun to the head, most likely, is the only cure.

40-3 { If it's so safe, why not put this type of lab in your offices there at the National Health Institute?

WE DO NOT WANT THE NEW PROGRAM and never will. We would like an answer to the questions we have posed as soon as possible, as we consider this a matter of possible life and death.



Linda Trescott



Brian Trescott

Comment

Response

40-2 Please see Section 1.7.2 where comments on the emergency plan were addressed.

40-3 Please see Section 1.7.1 where comments on alternatives were addressed.

Nottingham, Valerie (NIH/OD/ORF)

From: Nation, Douglas [dnation@corixa.com]
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2004 4:52 PM
To: ORS RMLEIS (NIH/OD/ORS)
Cc: Bloom, Marshall (NIH/NIAID)
Subject: Comment on RML Supplemental Draft EIS



RML Letter - Final
version 02-...

Dear Ms. Nottingham:

Attached is the Board of Directors approved statement from the Bitter Root Chapter of Trout Unlimited on the Supplemental Draft EIS issued for Rocky Mountain Lab in Hamilton, MT. We appreciate the opportunity to comment and to have our comment entered into the record.

<<RML Letter - Final version 02-04.doc>>

Sincerely,

Doug Nation
President, Bitter Root Trout Unlimited
Office phone: (406) 375-2189
Home Phone: (406) 363-2137
e-mail: dnation@corixa.com

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*LETTER 41 - DOUGLAS NATION, TROUT
UNLIMITED*



January 11, 2004

Valerie Nottingham
National Institutes of Health
B13/2W64
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Ms. Nottingham:

The Bitter Root Chapter of Trout Unlimited (BRTU), with a membership of approximately 250, is a local chapter of a national organization whose mission is "conserving, protecting, and restoring America's cold water fisheries". The BRTU board members and officers are citizens of Ravalli County, Montana and are a matter of public record. All of our general meetings are advertised and are open to members of the public. BRTU has been active in environmental, recreational, and conservation issues in the Bitterroot valley for over 25 years and has been involved, as either observers or participants, with a number of NEPA processes initiated by Federal agencies in association with their activities in Ravalli County.

BRTU has been an active participant in the Rocky Mountain Lab (RML) Integrated Research Facility (IRF) project. We currently have a seat on the Community Liaison Group (CLG) and have members that have attended most, if not all, of the Town Hall and Open House meetings hosted by RML to provide information and community education on the proposed IRF expansion. One, or more, of our members have also attended all of the IRF meetings related to the EIS and NEPA.

41-1 { BRTU welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) recently published for the proposed IRF. We feel the current SDEIS report is significantly more complete than the initial draft EIS published earlier in 2003. We also feel that the current SDEIS does comply with the applicable NEPA requirements. The efforts of NIH/NIAID/RML to educate the community on the proposed IRF expansion and address the concerns of the project critics have been commendable. As an environmental organization, we agree with the findings published in the SDEIS that this project will have little or no significant environmental impact on fisheries and water quality in the Bitterroot Valley.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors
Bitter Root Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Doug Nation, President

Comment

41-1 Comment noted.

Response

Nottingham, Valerie (NIH/OD/ORF)

From: John Swanson [swanj1@earthlink.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2004 12:20 PM
To: ORS RMLEIS (NIH/OD/ORS)
Cc: Bloom, Marshall (NIH/NIAID)
Subject: RML BSL-4 SDEIS+

Dear Ms. Nottingham

This is in response to the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) recently issued for proposed BSL-4 facility at RML.

42-1 { Sections 2.2.2.1 and 2.2.2.4 suggest that 'A BSL-4 laboratory for NIH use has been constructed at the Bethesda site' (p.2-17) and 'Bethesda, Maryland already has a BSL-4 laboratory.' I am confused by these statements. A relevant question is whether or not the BSL-4 laboratory on the Bethesda campus is operated as such, or not.

42-2 { If 'NIH is in the process of completing an EIS on a BSL-4 facility at Fort Detrick planned for NIAID.' as stated on p.2-19, is another really necessary at RML? Many things have changed since the inception of this NEPA process, and I wonder if the need for yet another BSL-4 facility is as great as it was in 2001!

42-3 { Section 4.2.1.1 includes a section on 'Housing' which contains several problems, in my estimate. The SDEIS suggests that property values in the area surrounding RML will not be compromised by BSL-4 construction, and they cite three local realtors (Dowling, Polumski, Rose). That opinion appears to be an 'off-the-cuff guesstimate' by these three individuals. I doubt seriously that there was any effort to examine the data concerning property values in the area over several previous years and whether those values have changed since commencement of BSL-4 talk; did the evaluation take into account the recent joint inquiry by six property owners living south of RML to the U.S. Government (NIH?) regarding its interest in purchasing their properties and the government's apparently negative response?

Such superficial or fanciful treatment for such concerns of RML's neighbors, of which I'm one, does not inspire confidence in either DEIS or SDEIS. There seems to have been plenty of whitewash applied here, and that's a bother in knowing whether matters (biosafety, etc.) that are potentially much more serious are similarly glossed-over in the process of inclusion.

----and not included in the DEIS or SDEIS is recognition that the RML site may have additional historical significance. It recently has been rumored locally that the current RML site is where Lewis & Clark, after first

LETTER 42 - JOHN SWANSON

Comment

Response

42-1 NIH has maintained a small BSL-4 laboratory in Bethesda since the 1970s. The laboratory was renovated and reopened as a BSL-4 suit laboratory in 1998. The facility was never intended to be used for long term research. The facility is currently being used as an enhanced BSL-3 laboratory and will be used as a BSL-4 as the need arises.

42-2 Past experience indicates that emerging and re-emerging diseases will continue to pose a threat to the US. The scientific program proposed at RML is different from that of Fort Detrick. RML would include pathogenesis, immune response, vaccine, diagnostics and therapeutics and would focus on vector-borne pathogens, while Fort Detrick will be studying the disease process using physiological monitoring and clinical laboratory testing.

42-3 Please see page 4-2 where comments on neighborhood concerns about property values were addressed.

getting lost and then making their way through what is now western Montana, had an history-determining golf match two centuries ago with local Native Americans who had earlier learned the similar, precursor (?) game of 'shinty' from Scottish trappers. The outcome of this golf match was to decide whether or not Lewis & Clark's party would be permitted to cross the Bitterroot Range to find the Pacific Ocean. Luckily (?) L & C won, apparently due to a birdie being made on the last hole by Sakagawia who was playing for the white explorers' team. Obviously, a happening like this would endow the RML site with deep historical significance that might be compromised by future building programs. Perhaps NIH could quickly construct a RML-L&C Visitors' park-site to attract Lewis & Clark Bicentennial tourists and use the monetary proceeds to install the BSL-4 facility proposed for RML on the moon, as part of President Bush's recent proposal to populate that planet, instead of in Hamilton. Wouldn't that be terrific?

Respectfully,

John Swanson
1015 South Fourth Street
Hamilton, MT 59840
swanj1@earthlink.net
406 363 6269



The Big Sky Country

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE BOB LAKE
HOUSE DISTRICT 60

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COMMITTEES:
TAXATION
EDUCATION
LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

HOME ADDRESS:
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HAMILTON, MONTANA 59840
PHONE: (406) 363-4091

January 31, 2004

Ms. Valerie Nottingham
NIH B13/2W64
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Ms. Nottingham:

I was pleased that RML decided after the first public hearing, to respond to the Hamilton community and develop a revised EIS study to deal with those issues that were of major concern. I attended the public hearing on the supplemental draft in order to get a feeling of the crowd reaction to the new draft.

I must first complement Dr. Marshall Bloom and the other RML individuals who presented a very professional introduction and explanation of the proposed construction and management of the level 4 lab. The testimony given at the hearing very closely followed the general public comments that I have received as I visit with people around my district, which includes RML. The public has been and will be supportive of the Lab and the work that is accomplished in the facility. The overwhelming majority of Hamilton residents greatly appreciate the relationship that we enjoy with RML and the staff that is employed there.

As you are aware, there is a contingent that is very vocal against the expansion. You must understand that their objection is not about the potential dangers; (although that is what they claim) it is the extremely narrow agenda of limiting the population growth of the area that drives their efforts. They cannot be ignored, because their tactic is to create unwarranted concern in the neighbors and the community in general. It will work on a few people but I feel should not influence your final decision.

43-1 { I sincerely support the expansion plan but, would ask for a consideration. You will notice from the transcript of the hearing, the main concern centers around the light and constant noise level produced on the campus during the night time hours. I am aware that you have in place a noise level regulation, and security dictates the need for illumination. If it were possible to include baffles around the roof air conditioners/compressors to deflect the noise upward it may help with that problem. As for the light situation if it were possible to construct a fence that would shield the nearby neighbors or position the beam as not to have direct line to the homes it may defuse that concern as well.

Again, I support your expansion plan and want to congratulate all of those people who have obviously dedicated a great deal of time and effort in developing and presenting the EIS.

Sincerely;

Bob Lake

cc: Dr. Marshall Bloom

LETTER 43 - BOB LAKE, STATE
REPRESENTATIVE

Comment

Response

43-1 Noise mitigations are included in the discussion of the proposed action. These mitigations would reduce the noise to acceptable levels. Please see page 2-8 of the SDEIS.

02-09-04P02:48 RCVD

Nottingham, Valerie (NIH/OD/ORF)

From: tsitlall@juno.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2004 10:43 AM
To: ORS RMLEIS (NIH/OD/ORS)
Subject: Concerns

Re: Proposed expansion of Rocky Mt. Lab:

I am a resident of Hamilton. I live about 7 blocks east of the lab. I am deeply disturbed by this proposal, and have read both the Draft and the "Supplement" EIS. I have attended meetings. I have submitted letters to NIH about this issue. I do not feel heard. I am not alone.

The current Supplement did not address issues that were important to me, and vital to this community:

- 44-1 {
 - Financial cost of other locations was not discussed. In fact, there was no discussion of other locations. I would like to see Glasgow Air Force Base investigated as a possible site. It has a 3-mile air strip for delivering sensitive materials. Air Security is available from Malestrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, MT. It has temporary housing for employees (or permanent housing). It is already fenced and gated for security. There is a community nearby that is gasping for more residents.
- 44-2 {
 - No analysis of air pollutants was included in the EIS. Since I live in the airstream east of the lab, this issue is extremely important. This is one of the key factors in deciding if we can continue to live here should the lab be enlarged.
- 44-3 {
 - No emergency plans were included, should an employee be infected or should a shipment of sensitive material be disturbed, stolen, etc. There is no way to isolate an infected employee at the local, small and ill-equipped hospital. We have one highway...*one way out for 35,000 people*. We have one (inadequate) airport. How tragic it would be if an incident occurred and people began asking honest questions, like "What were they thinking??" This is a critical issue which hundreds of citizens have questioned to date, without any response from the Institute.
- 44-4 {
 - As any pilot will inform the committee, Hamilton is a sitting duck for air terrorism. We do not have the air security of other locations in the State; not even advanced radar systems at the airport. Approach by northern or southern routes along the mountains would be extremely easy.
 - The sense I received from recent meetings was that since the Chamber of Commerce, Hamilton City Council, Hamilton Downtown Business Association have agreed to the expansion that the Institute considers this a "done deal." It is not. The citizens of Hamilton and the rest of the valley have a right to vote on the presence of Weapons of Mass Destruction in this valley. My belief is a vote would strongly indicate the opposition to this plan.

I am not a fanatic. I'm a social worker. I work with people to improve their quality of life, and with the community to improve the lives of families and children. I deeply approve of having WMD research. *But I cannot understand placing that research outside of a military installation. This community does not want to be a military target.*

Cordially,
 Star Jameson, 253 Roosevelt Lane, Hamilton, MT 59840 (406) 363-4026

LETTER 44 - STAR JAMESON

Comment	Response
44-1	Please see Section 1.7.1 where comments on alternatives were discussed.
44-2	Please see Section 1.7.3 where comments on air quality were addressed.
44-3	Please see Section 1.7.2 where comments on the emergency plan were addressed.
44-4	Please see Section 1.7.3 where comments on the risk of terrorism were addressed.

Nottingham, Valerie (NIH/OD/ORF)

From: Jay Greene [jaygreene37@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2004 1:18 PM
To: ORS RMLEIS (NIH/OD/ORS)
Subject: Tempting fate

45-I

Kindly add our names to those others in the south valley who are opposed to expanding the venue of the chemists at Rocky Mountain Laboratories to include the importation of arcane (and very dangerous) microbes and viruses...

We moved to the Bitterroot Valley to get as far as possible from *the missiles* up along the Highline. It seems counterintuitive (and certainly counterproductive) that the U. S. is now thinking of bringing another equally worrisome type of *WMD* to the valley...

Sincerely

Nadine J. and
J D Greene
131 Silverbow Drive
Victor, MT 59875-9676

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Nottingham, Valerie (NIH/OD/ORF)

From: Steve Slocumb [video@montana.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2004 2:43 PM
To: ORS RMLEIS (NIH/OD/ORS)
Subject: Hamilton LAB

46-I

Please include more information on alternative BH4 lab locations, and on measures to be taken if there were to be an escape of a pathogen.

Steve Slocumb
376 Zimmerman Lane
Hamilton, MT
59840

Steve Slocumb
Looking Glass Films
videography/editing
Montana, USA
email: video@montana.com
web: bitterroot.tv

LETTER 45 - NADINE J. AND J. D. GREENE

Comment

Response

45-I

Please see Section 1.1 where this comment is addressed. No Weapons of Mass Destruction research will take place at any NIH facility including RML, as this is forbidden by a national security directive and international law. Please also see section 4.2.1.1, Community Safety and Risk, Risk Assessment section.

LETTER 46 - STEVE SLOCOMB

Comment

Response

46-I

Please see Section 1.7.1 where comments on alternatives were addressed.

Nottingham, Valerie (NIH/OD/ORF)

From: Carolsblum@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2004 3:57 PM
To: ORS RMLEIS (NIH/OD/ORS)
Subject: public comments on RML SDEIS

Ms. Nottingham:
Please accept the following as my official comments for the Rocky Mountain Lab BSL-4 Expansion SDEIS:

47-1 { My main concern is that SDEIS still does not fully develop and analyze more than one alternative, to build the expansion at the RML campus. This is directly contrary to EIS rules which state that a full range of alternatives must be developed and compared to one another in terms of their impacts, risks, benefits, and ability to meet the purpose and need. Furthermore, the SDEIS continues to state that the purpose and need of the project is to build the expansion of the Rocky Mountain Labs to the BSL-4 level. This is blatantly worded in this way to circumvent the possibility of developing and comparing other alternative locations for the BSL-4 lab to be built. I believe that the NIH is only looking at the RML, and not other possible locations, and that this constitutes illegal predetermination in an EIS.

47-2 { I am also extremely concerned about the fact that the citizens of the Bitterroot Valley have been illegally denied information that will allow them to fully and meaningfully participate in the National Environmental Policy Act process, because of an illegal denial of a FOIA fee waiver requested by Friends of the Bitterroot, and the subsequent illegal failure to respond within the mandated time frame to the appeal of that denial. This group represents large numbers of citizens in the Bitterroot valley and made this 2nd FOIA request to follow up on information received in the first FOIA. This group widely disseminates the information that they obtain, and this is the only way that the public has access to any information that NIH isn't voluntarily handing out in their completely selective "education" of the public on the issues. I therefore request an extension of the deadline for comments until such time that Friends of the Bitterroot receives the documents that they are entitled to by law.

47-3 { Lastly, the SDEIS either doesn't address at all, or inadequately addresses the following issues:
There is no emergency plan included in the SDEIS, for a whole variety of possible emergencies. There is no mention of what will be done to financially support the community's emergency services, which will need to provide extra training and equipment.

47-4 { Incidents of biological agents or toxins released, stolen, or are prohibited from being made public, stated in Homeland Security Act, so that not only can we receive no information about the actual safety record of current BSL-4 labs, but if there is a problem at this lab, if it is built, there is no guarantee that the public will be informed about it. The increased use of the incinerator to burn medical/infectious waste is not adequately addressed. There is not an adequate air pollution analysis. An inventory of toxic chemicals proposed to be used onsite is not made available. There is no analysis of the risks posed by an accidentally infected lab worker. There is not an adequate analysis of the potential income to the local government from payroll taxes.

47-5 { There is not an adequate analysis of the solid waste stream expected from the proposed lab. There is not an adequate analysis of potential conflicts between the proposed projects and the goals of the Ravalli County Growth policy. There is not an adequate analysis of the increased noise and light pollution at night. There is no discussion of the potential for a purposeful release of a hazardous agent or toxin, or what a response plan would include. There is not an adequate analysis of the impacts of the increased traffic in a residential neighborhood. There is no discussion of the risks or safety measures regarding RML and our community becoming a potential target by terrorists.

47-6 { Once again, I am requesting that a new DEIS be released, addressing these issues that have not been addressed, and that NIH already received many requests to address following the first DEIS. And, as stated above, I request an extension of the deadline for comments for this SDEIS until such time that Friends of the Bitterroot receives the documents that they are entitled to by law so that the public can participate in a meaningful manner, as prescribed by NEPA.

Sincerely,

LETTER 47 - CAROL S. BLUM

Comment	Response
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47-1	Please see Section 1.7.1 where comments on alternatives were addressed.
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47-2	Please see Section 1.7.1 of the SDEIS.
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47-3	The NIH has provided in the SDEIS all information relevant to the Proposed Action, including the Proposed Action's environmental impacts. While the Friends of the Bitterroot (FOB) submitted a request for records under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the FOB has refused to pay the standard fees assessed for the records produced pursuant to the DHHS regulations implementing the FOIA, 45 C.F.R. Subpart D. DHHS has carefully considered FOB's request for a waiver to these fees and has determined that no basis exists to grant the waiver under 45 C.F.R. Subpart D or any other law or other authority. The public comment period for the SDEIS was sufficient under the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA and will not be extended.
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47-4	Please see Section 1.7.2 where comments on the emergency plan were addressed.
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Remainder of responses on following page.

- 47-5** The Act referred to is the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 ("Bioterrorism Act"). Section 201 of the Bioterrorism Act ensures that, for security purposes, Federal agencies cannot be made to release certain specific information about select agents -- predominantly related to comprehensive listings of agents and their locations -- under the Freedom of Information Act. However, nothing in the Bioterrorism Act prohibits a facility from voluntarily releasing information to the public about any accident, release, theft, or infection involving select agents. Further, the Bioterrorism Act requires that a facility that handles select agents must notify the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services about any release so that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), acting on the Secretary's behalf, can take appropriate action to notify the public and local authorities. CDC's notification is in addition to any actions the facility may take. The facility is not prevented from directly notifying the public about any accident, release, theft, or infection.
- 47-6** Please see Section 1.7.3 where comments on these concerns were addressed.
- 47-7** Comments on the DEIS and SDEIS have been addressed in the SDEIS and the FEIS. No additional DEIS will be produced.

Nottingham, Valerie (NIH/OD/ORF)

From: CarolSblum@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2004 11:26 PM
To: ORS RMLEIS (NIH/OD/ORS)
Subject: RML SDEIS

Carol S. Blum
Hamilton, MT

Valerie Nottingham
NIH
Bethesda, MD 20892

February 11, 2004

Dear Ms. Nottingham:

48-I

Please include the following comment as a supplement to my previous comments on the RML SDEIS. As demonstrated by the recent equipment failure that resulted in the deaths of lab animals at RML, it is clear that humans error and machines fail. It is the norm, not the exception. NIH has stated repeatedly that the risk of a BSL-4 agent release is too small to quantify. It is imperative that the NIH begins to assess this risk based on the circumstances of the accident that just occurred at the RML. The risk is certainly not "negligible" as stated in the SDEIS.

Sincerely,

Carol S. Blum

Nottingham, Valerie (NIH/OD/ORF)

From: Hannah L Whitney [hlw@montana.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2004 1:35 AM
To: ORS RMLEIS (NIH/OD/ORS)
Subject: RML-expansion-Hamilton,MT

Hannah Whitney
PO Box333
Victor,Mt 59872/10/04

To whom it may concern:

Tell your doctors' lab builders, that we like where we live, obviously they like it here too. If they want to study toxic substances they can do it in an isolated safe place and vacation here. Know too much to be snowed.
Hannah Whitney

LETTER 48 - CAROL S. BLUM

Comment

Response

48-I

The Integrated Research Facility is designed to eliminate the potential of a human accident causing release of an agent and infection of anyone in the community.

LETTER 49 - HANNAH WHITNEY

Nottingham, Valerie (NIH/OD/ORF)

From: John Lehrman [keewaydin@micro-mania.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2004 11:57 PM
To: ORS RMLEIS (NIH/OD/ORS)
Subject: Comments on SEIS-rml from J.Lehrman

Dear V. Nottingham,

I am writing in regards to the Rocky Mountain Laboratory(RML) located in Hamilton, Montana. I feel a Level 4 lab in this neighborhood location is inappropriate and irresponsible.

Hamilton's emergency services are financially struggling and small. Besides being unable to fund the appropriate emergency services, the hospital is physically small and unequipped to handle a biological pathogens outbreak.

Although the RML has an excellent record with few accidents, we must acknowledge the fact that these pathogens will be transported in and out of Hamilton and the possibility of an accident does exist.

Besides these concerns I will briefly list a few other areas of concern.

It is my understanding that through the Public Health Preparedness and Bioterrorism Response Act that information about Released, Stolen, or Lost Agents or Toxins is prohibited from being made public. This is alarming, dangerous, and irresponsible.

The increased use of the incinerator to burn waste and air pollution problems is an issue.

50-1 { I would like to see an Alternatives section in the EIS, this is absolutely standard in EIS's.

Noise pollution in the neighborhood and the surrounding areas is a concern.

The increased traffic in the residential area of RML is undesirable.

And lastly, the fact that the Freedom of Information Act requests to NIH for information about the decision process in expanding RML have been repeatedly ignored. One brief memo sent out of the Office of Intermural Research of NIH states this "The RML campus is located in Rural western Montana, well removed from major population centers. The location of the laboratory reduces the possibility that an accidental release of biosafety level-4 organism would lead to a major public health disaster." This statement leaves one uneasy.

Let me state again that the proposed expansion of RML to a Level-4 is inappropriate and irresponsible.

Sincerely,
John S. Lehrman
Hamilton Mt. 59840

LETTER 50 - JOHN LEHRMAN

Comment

Response

50-1 The DEIS, SDEIS and FEIS contain an Alternatives Section at Section 2.2.

Nottingham, Valerie (NIH/OD/ORF)

From: joan [joaniepony@montana.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2004 8:57 PM
To: ORS RMLEIS (NIH/OD/ORS)
Subject: rml - comment

In regards to the Bio -Level 4 expansion on The Rocky Mountain Lab campus, I believe a number of concerns were not adequately addressed:

- 51-1** { no proper inquiry into real ALTERNATIVES for Bio 4 lab- It seems to me a military base or an urban environment where emergency services are available would be more appropriate.
- 51-2** { no examination of the possibility of Earthquake and its damage or how to handle a MAJOR(9-11) type terrorist attack- we need specific PLANS not just reassurances.
- 51-3** { no detailed discussion of the impacts on the local systems ie schools ,roads ,water ,septic etc.
- 51-4** { One of my biggest concerns is the transportation of materials, basically one road in and out of here. The threat of a terrorist hit on Fed Ex or whomever needs to be closely examined. Then spelled out in DETAIL.

If the lab is built I believe that Hamilton and Ravalli County should be compensated for added risks that we would be forced to accept. There would be a need for a new hospital wing, a new middle school , and new airport for emergencies. All of these would be necessary to guarantee safety of our community.

My family and I believe that THE only reason the lab would be built here is the fact that this is an expendable rural community with little health risk due to its low population. It is a bad idea but I am sure its a done deal regardless . This process has been tainted from the start. We may be westerners but we are not stupid. Respectfully submitted,

Joan and David Perry
 564 Cielo Vista
 Hamilton, Montana 59840

Nottingham, Valerie (NIH/OD/ORF)

From: Steve & Jacque [jre@cybernet1.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2004 4:30 PM
To: ORS RMLEIS (NIH/OD/ORS)
Subject: RML

Dear Val

I am 100% in favor of the planned expansion at RML.

Stephen S Ellis M.D.
 162 Jayhawk ln
 Hamilton, Mt 59840
jre@cybernet1.com

LETTER 51 - JOAN AND DAVID PERRY

Comment

Response

- 51-1** Please see Section 1.7.1 where comments on alternatives were addressed.
- 51-2** Please see Section 1.7.3 where comments on earthquakes or terrorism were addressed.
- 51-3** Please see Section 1.7.3 where comments on these resources were addressed.
- 51-4** In the event of an accident or “terrorist hit” the Department of Transportation and Federal Bureau of Investigations would respond.

LETTER 52 - STEPHEN S. ELLIS

LETTER 53 - KENT BARBIAN

Nottingham, Valerie (NIH/OD/ORS)

From: Barbian, Kent (NIH/NIAID)
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2004 5:37 PM
To: ORS RMLEIS (NIH/OD/ORS)
Cc: Barbian, Kent (NIH/NIAID)
Subject: SDEIS Comment

Ms. Valerie Nottingham,

I have been given substantial time to read and review the SDEIS regarding the lab expansion at Rocky Mountain Laboratories in Hamilton, Montana and wish to comment on it.

First, I would like to state my position: I am FOR the RML Integrated Research Facility! I strongly support RML's mission statement, that is "to play a leading role in the nation's effort to develop diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics to combat emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases". Facilities are greatly needed in order to meet this mission and what better place to put these facilities than at Rocky Mountain Laboratories.

Through the SDEIS, the NIH/NIAID has adequately address ALL issues with regards to public safety and environmental impacts/concerns that this expansion may pose to the community as well as the potential benefits to the overall public health in this country. Several public meetings have been held not only to inform and educate the public regarding this expansion, but also to allow for public comment. Overall, the SDEIS has done a phenomenal job in addressing legitimate concerns posed by the community regarding the future lab expansion and has done an outstanding job of providing details on all the issues that needed to be addressed before proceeding.

My hope is that NIH/NIAID proceed as rapidly as possible to begin construction of this much-needed facility.

Kent D. Barbian

Kent D. Barbian, Biologist
Laboratory of Human Bacterial Pathogenesis
Rocky Mountain Laboratories, NIAID/NIH
903 South 4th Street
Hamilton, Montana 59840
(406) 363-9488
kbarbian@niaid.nih.gov

2/11/2004

Nottingham, Valerie (NIH/OD/ORF)

From: Rick Fuhrman [rickfuhrman@attglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2004 2:59 PM
To: ORS RMLEIS (NIH/OD/ORS)
Subject: Support for RML BSL-4 Facility

Ms. Vallerie Nottingham

I have been, and continue to be, 100% behind the rapid construction and use of a BSL-4 facility. The Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, December 2003 only reinforces my support.

RML and NIH have, in my opinion, gone well beyond the extra mile in answering questions and concerns that have been raised. Knowledgeable senior officials and world class experts have repeatedly been available and have addressed questions (repeatedly) with unlimited (to much) patience. Most importantly they have answered questions and concerns with factual information, including detailed descriptions of methodologies that have been employed. Beyond all of that the safety track record of existing BSL-4 labs speaks volumes to this Hamilton resident.

You have done an excellent job of presenting the need for the facilities based on the research objectives evolving from the Presidents directive. I have no doubt that we will live in safer world, including Hamilton, with this facility in place. .

While I remain frustrated with the delays I understand the need for deliberate process. I think deliberate process has been exercised completely and then some, particularly with the recent supplement and presentations. I urge you to move quickly - start building and most importantly **USING** the new facility to address your research goals.

Thank you,

Rick Fuhrman
Hamilton, MT

LETTER 54 - RICK FUHRMAN

GreenPath Properties
Vicky Bohlig, Broker/Owner
217 West Main St. Hamilton, MT 59840

Valerie Nottingham
National Institutes of Health
9000 Rockville Pike
Bldg. 13 Room 2W64
Bethesda, MD 20892
Orsrmlis-r@mail.nih.gov

Feb.10, 2004
(Please note I do not represent Lambros Real Estate.)

I am writing in response to the call for public comment concerning the Supplemental EIS for the Expansion of the Rocky Mountain Lab in Hamilton, MT into a BSL-4 campus. I cannot, in good conscience, approve of this expansion at this site in a rural Montana small-town residential neighborhood and the Supplemental EIS has not convinced me otherwise. Neither do I approve of a similar expansion in a higher density populated neighborhood, such as the one proposed in Boston, for example. It is my belief that a BSL-4 research lab, although necessary for future research and help to humanity, is only appropriately located in an isolated military base, protected and far removed from the general population.

55-1 { That being said, I am realistic enough to know that sort of opinion is being discounted as impractical, too expensive and unpatriotic in the Homeland Security/Patriot Act sacrificial sense. But its omission, this lack of a “build-elsewhere” alternative, is a flaw in the RML SEIS, and perhaps negligent in the NEPA process.

I am not convinced in spite of all the recent public meetings organized by professional federal public relations officers, that the Federal biological research community has Hamilton’s best interests in mind. Rather, there is an opportunity to cash in on big monies and is not just research driven but finance driven..... the true motive. The research community is reacting opportunistically and it is Hamilton City and Ravalli County, MT that will feel the effects, good and bad. The bad impacts are what are not being

LETTER 55 - VICKY BOHLIG

Comment

Response

55-1 Please see Section 1.7.1 where comments on alternatives were addressed.

addressed in the SEIS in spite of constant and persistent public concern and formalized questions. My experience of the process over almost 2 years has, unfortunately, caused a distrust of RML, which was not there for me in the past. The formalized public meetings, the phony structured Community Liaison Group meetings, the press releases and community outreach events rather than reassuring me have failed to instill trust.

For example, the people are being asked to dismiss any thought of risk. NIH promises risk is negligible. However, there is a refusal to explain this memo “The RML campus is located in rural western Montana, well removed from major population centers. The location of the laboratory reduces the possibility that an accidental release of a biosafety level-4 organism would lead to a major public health disaster.” This statement made by someone in NIH of authority makes it clear to me that the sparse surrounding population was a factor to choose and they did consider some risk. True, statistically, there are fewer folks. It does not mean “none” and this risk needs to be addressed. Individual Hamilton lives are as real as individual lives in New York City.

I have maintained from my first letter to the editor in 2002 that if the Bitterrooters are being asked to sacrifice, they need to be told their chances and their plan of survival in case of failure. We have been told emergency plans are forth coming but that is not good enough. These plans need to be disclosed in the EIS so we can then see the issues clearly and decide our level of participation. To offer us less, is condescending, paternalistic and in violation of the Montana Constitution, which guarantees freedom of information and public involvement and participation in policy which effects our health and environment.

My distrust of RML’s intentions started with the EA process over two years ago. These following issues continue to make me wonder how I can trust other assurances from NIH.

The first was how the RML became a BSL-3. I discovered that due to what I consider a NEPA loophole, a remodel project actually allowed RML to go to the BSL-3 level without thorough information and none of its ramifications getting any real public review. Many, many local people of civic importance and leadership were unaware of this major change and feel they were duped.

Comment	Response
55-2	The risk is none, as the risk analysis revealed that there was no real risk from release of infectious agents at a distance of 300 feet from the exhaust ducts. The actual distance to the community exceeds 300 feet.
55-3	Please see Section 1.7.2 where comments on the emergency plan were addressed.

A second issue that made me distrust the Lab's forthrightness was the way the annexation of the property and the hook-ups into the municipal water and sewer system was handled. The Lab surely should have seen that there were weak and confused City Departments of Water and Sewer. Later, as water and sewer billing and rates of usage became suspect, who bothered at the RML to offer information to set it straight? As the City's largest water user, surely the Lab was aware of an under-billing situation. Later this was confirmed and there was a rush to repay the City. But this payment was only partial and every effort was made to hush the scandal and repair the PR damage with not-so-coincidental good neighbor RML press releases.

A third issue was how the RML, behind closed doors with developers "unofficially" used a "straw broker" to buy residential lots adjacent to the RML. Upon this sale, there were recorded covenant changes on these lots that did not get public review that would have been favorable to RML and detrimental to the subdivision homeowners. When this was discovered, everyone involved pleaded innocence and ignorance. I doubt it was a simple mistake.

Other issues eroding my trust was discovering past patterns of improper waste disposal procedures on the RML campus site and in a local landfills, questionable incineration/air pollution problems, excessive noise problems and minimal aesthetic protection during the remodeling projects. This shows to me a RML lack of sensitivity or perhaps even a disregard for the neighborhood's concerns.

The pattern suggested by past RML behavior is "asking for forgiveness from the community after the fact". There is no room for this type of behavior concerning BSL-4 issues. Therefore, I do not trust the assurances BSL-4 will be fine in Hamilton.

I see no efforts in the SEIS to offer alternative sites. I do not see any plans or offers to support or finance emergency services to help the City of Hamilton build infrastructure capacity, police, fire or medical. The City was extremely quick to endorse this BSL-4 project totally for economic development potential but there were no balanced questions about costs. I saw the comments the City of Hamilton Department Heads made and it was pathetic. Where was the City Council to ask the questions I have raised? Where is RML/NIH to offer answers?
Sincerely, Vicky Bohlig 310 Geneva Ave., Hamilton, MT 59840

RML Integrated Research Facility

02-06-0400141 NLYD

Public Meeting – January 22, 2004

LETTER 56 - RICHARD WHITE

Comments on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement

The stated purpose of the BSL-4 lab is to study and counteract bioterrorism by groups such as brought down the World Trade towers 9/11/01 after years of planning and training. The EIS statement does not address terrorists except for procedure of seeing a suspicious package - completely useless and out of date. If lab research is about to interfere with a planned bioterrorism attack planned in the USA, it is plausible a couple of suicide trucks would come racing south on 5th st, the first blowing the gate, and the second driving thru next to the "containment room", blowing out walls and opening BSL-4 and allowing pathogens and infected lab animal to escape into the surrounding residential areas.

The security cameras mounted on the undestroyed sections of the iron fence protecting the perimeter of the lab campus would record it all!

We cannot depend on Pat Stewart, Marshall Blom, or our City Administration. Neither the RML or City Auditors, Acct's Payable dept, Public Works, Finance Office ~~are~~ under or severe changes, are they really dependable?

Richard White

Name:

Company/Organization:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Richard White

1000 S. Second St.

Hamilton, MT 59810

Please send comments to: Valerie Nottingham

NIH, B13/2W64
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20892

Please note that this document will become part of the administrative record for the EIS and will be subject to public review.

Comments must be post marked by February 11, 2004

Valerie Nottingham
NIH, B13/2W64
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda MD 20890
Fax: 301-480-8056

Re: Rocky Mtn Lab Proposal for Bio Level 4

February 11, 2004

Dear Valerie,

I am writing to express my deep concern with the proposal set forth in the Supplemental Draft EIS. It still seems that no real alternatives are being considered and that the government is trying to push this on the citizens of Ravalli County.

In reading the draft EIS the main reason I believe this should not be approved is that we clearly do not have the infrastructure to handle this proposed expansion. Noise, traffic, poor local medical services, extensive water usage and questionable disposal, air inversions, etc. are all legitimate concerns that should prevent this from going any further. These same concerns have been brought up in every meeting I have attended and this draft clearly shows there are no adequate solutions. Regardless if this was the safest lab built, it still would create a burden on the infrastructure that cannot be met even if millions of dollars were available to address them, which they are not.

57-I { I also noticed that the "worst case scenarios" were not worst case by any means. No consideration was given to a plane being flown into the lab, or a disgruntled employee stealing a virus and mailing it, or a "terrorist kidnapping the vehicle in which the viruses were being transported. If anyone of these happened the impact would be catastrophic and not "negligible" as the writers of this would have us believe. The impact on the people of the Bitterroot and our neighboring wilderness area should be significant enough to stop this proposed project dead in its tracks. Isn't it amazing that the only people who seem to favor this are those that would benefit financially.

Please, I beg of you and all those that are making this decision - DO NOT APPROVE THIS! We have given you ample reason over and over again that Hamilton is not the place for a Bio Level 4 Lab. FIND SOME PLACE ELSE!!

I appeal to your higher consciousness.

Sincerely,

I Am Serenity
773 Kindness Way
Hamilton MT 59840

LETTER 57 - I AM SERENITY

Comment

Response

57-I Please see response to comment 39-21.

Nottingham, Valerie (NIH/OD/ORF)

From: Peter Reynolds [peter@onenessproject.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2004 3:17 PM
To: ORS RMLEIS (NIH/OD/ORS)
Subject: "Biosafety" lab 4 in Hamilton Montana

Dear Ms. Nottingham,

58-1 { As a citizen of Ravalli County I am writing to express my deep concern that the citizens of this valley have been denied the information they need in order to participate effectively in the NEPA process governing whether the "Biosafety Lab 4" is to located in Hamilton, Montana. We have made a Freedom of Information Act request to retrieve documents which are fundamental to the public in assessing the safety of this installation.

58-2 { An NIH memo states "The RML campus is located in rural western Montana, well removed from major population centers. The location of the laboratory reduces the possibility that an accidental release of a biosafety level-4 organism would lead to a major public health disaster." This statement must be explained. It certainly leads one to believe that the residents of Ravalli County are expendable in the search for the most virulent weapons known to man. What other alternatives exist for the location of the lab?

58-3 { I also feel that the Supplemental Draft EIS report falls short in many areas. There is no emergency plan specified in that report. If there is a release of toxins or agents the public will not be informed because of measures in the Homeland Security Act. The EIS does not address how an accidentally infected lab work would be dealt with. These are among the many items not addressed.

I strongly feel that the United States Government should not be engaged in doing this kind of research AT ALL. In the end, we need to build a safer world in other ways.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed facility.

Sincerely,

Peter Reynolds
 465 Weber Heights Road
 Corvallis, MT 59828
 (406) 961-1484

LETTER 58 - PETER REYNOLDS

Comment

Response

58-1 To the extent that the comment refers to a request for records submitted to the NIH by the Friends of the Bitterroot, please see the response to comment 47-3. To the extent the comment refers to a different request made under the FOI Act, the NIH has provided in the SDEIS all information relevant to the Proposed Action, including the Proposed Action's environmental impacts.

58-2 Please see response to comment 39-12.

58-3 Please see Section 1.7.2 where comments on the emergency plan were addressed. Please see Section 1.7.3 where comments on the use and disposal of hazardous chemicals were addressed. Please see response to comments 39-16, 47-5, and 47-6.

Nottingham, Valerie (NIH/OD/ORF)

From: Millerfob@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2004 4:05 PM
To: ORS RMLEIS (NIH/OD/ORS)
Subject: RML SDEIS Comments

James B. Miller
541 Mill Creek Trail
Hamilton, MT 59840

Valerie Nottingham
NIH
Bethesda, MD 20892

February 11, 2004

Please accept my comments here on the RML SDEIS as supplemental to the oral comments I presented as a private citizen at the RML public meeting last month.

59-I { Regretfully, the NIH has withheld important information from the public pertaining to the proposed RML Biolevel-4 expansion. This information was requested by the Friends of the Bitterroot six months ago under the Freedom of Information Act. I believe that this information is crucial to my meaningful participation in the NEPA process. I hereby request that the deadline for comments on the RML SDEIS be extended until such time that the our community has access to this information.

Sincerely,

James B. Miller

LETTER 59 - JAMES B. MILLER

Comment

Response

59-I Please see response to comment 47-3.

Nottingham, Valerie (NIH/OD/ORF)

From: Millerfob@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2004 11:16 PM
To: ORS RMLEIS (NIH/OD/ORS)
Subject: RML SDEIS Comments

James B. Miller
541 Mill Creek Trail
Hamilton, MT 59840

Valerie Nottingham
NIH
Bethesda, MD 20892

February 11, 2004

Dear Ms. Nottingham:

Please include the following comment as supplemental to my previous comments on the RML SDEIS. As demonstrated by the recent equipment malfunction that resulted in the deaths of lab animals at RML, it is clear that humans error and machines fail. It is the norm, not the exception. NIH has stated repeatedly that the risk of a BSL-4 agent release is too small to quantify. It is imperative that the NIH begins to assess this risk based on the certainty that humans error and machines fail. The risk is certainly not "negligible" as stated in the SDEIS.

Sincerely,

James B. Miller

Comment

Response

59-2 Please see Section 4.2.1.1 of the SDEIS, Community Safety and Risk, where Risk Assessments are addressed.

59-2 {



FRIENDS of the BITTERROOT

P.O. Box 442
Hamilton, MT 59840

January 25, 2004

Valerie Nottingham
NIH, B13/2W64
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Ms. Nottingham:

The NIH is currently in violation of Freedom of Information Regulation § 5.35(b)(2) for not responding to Friends of the Bitterroot's FOIA appeal, received by the FOIA appeals office November 10th, 2003, by the required deadline. The NIH has also violated 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(6)(A)(iii) and 45 C.F.R. 5.45(a)(1)(2) for not granting our fee waiver request, as required by law. We have notified the NIH that if they do not overturn the fee waiver denial and begin providing the requested information to us, by January 30th, 2004, that we will take this matter up in Federal Court. The NIH has been in possession of our FOIA request for 6 months and has failed to act. As a result, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. 1506.6 (Public Involvement) and 1507.1 (Compliance) Friends of the Bitterroot has been illegally denied important documents and information that are crucial to our meaningful participation in the NEPA process for the proposed BSL-4 expansion at Rocky Mountain Laboratories. For this reason, we require that the deadline for comments on the SDEIS be extended until 45 days after we receive the documents in our FOIA request, to which we are legally entitled. We request a written response by February 6, 2004.

Sincerely,

James B. Miller, President

59-3

Comment

Response

59-3

Please see the response to comment 47-3.

Nottingham, Valerie (NIH/OD/ORF)

From: Winston Weeks [w.weeks@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2004 4:19 PM
To: ORS RMLEIS (NIH/OD/ORS)
Subject: Letter of Support for FOIA Request

Dear Ms. Nottingham,

As an organization active in protecting the safety of all Americans and believing in the right of citizens to participate in citizen oversight, we fully support the Friends of the Bitterroot's FOIA appeal and the legal statement below.

"We, and the Bitterroot valley citizens whom we represent and inform, have been illegally denied important documents and information that are crucial to meaningful participation in the NEPA process for the proposed

BSL-4 expansion at Rocky Mountain Laboratories (pursuant to 40 C.F.R. 1506.6 and 1507.1). The NIH is currently in violation of Freedom of Information Regulation 5.35(b)(2) for not responding to Friends of the Bitterroot's FOIA appeal, received by the FOIA appeals office November 10th, 2003, by the required deadline. The NIH has also violated 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(6)(A)(iii) and 45 C.F.R. 5.45(a)(1)(2) for not granting a fee waiver request, as required by law. The NIH has been in possession of this FOIA request for 6 months and has failed to act. We view these actions as deliberate stonewalling of our groups and the large number of

citizens that we represent, while NIH hurriedly moves forward with the scoping process on the proposal. For this reason, we require that the deadline for comments on the SDEIS be extended until 45 days after we receive the documents in our FOIA request, to which we are legally entitled."

Sincerely,

Winston C. Weeks
Citizens Education Project
Salt Lake City, Utah
801-502-9233

LETTER 60 - WINSTON WEEKS

60-1

Comment

Response

60-1 Please see the response to comment 47-3.

Nottingham, Valerie (NIH/OD/ORF)

From: Darel L. Seibert, D.C. [drdarel@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2004 4:29 PM
To: ORS RMLEIS (NIH/OD/ORS)
Subject: Public comment on expansion at RML

Ms Valerie Nottingham,

Upon review of the supplemental Draft EIS of proposed expansion at RML, I have comments including the following;

The risk to community is listed as "negligible". Possibly this is underrated and should be investigated honestly. Negligible is possibly not an accurate rating if you were to live here. Risks involved with "accidental" exposure are low, but when you consider exponents like workers that do not reveal exposure until after symptoms develop, or to artificially elevate safety records, etc. risks are maybe not as negligible as you would like to think.

- 61-1** { Where in the EIS is the emergency plan contingency addressed? I was unable to find any reference to updated EMS plans, and protocols.
- 61-2** { Increased usage of incinerator at site will add additional pollutants to the air shed, where is analysis of this projected health risk? Concurrently, increased solid waste release will need to be addressed.
- Alternatives to site are dismissed as being outside "budget constraints". There are remote military reservations that could be more appropriate for extreme biohazards like these agents, and they have already the infrastructure in place to support the "scientist community". Dismissing the alternatives so easily adds to the feeling that the choice to build upgrade at Hamilton is affected excessively by the "desires" of the scientist community and that they and their families like the idea of living in this beautiful community.
- 61-3** { Where is there analysis of how the increased community loading of the upgrade having been projected to the Ravalli County growth policy standards?
- 61-4** { Traffic will increase in local residential district surrounding the laboratory. This impact needs to be addressed in the EIS. Where is that impact statement, and what proposed upgrades are proposed.

Thank you for interviewing my comments.

Sincerely, Darel L. Seibert, D.C.

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LETTER 61 - DAREL SEIBERT

Comment

Response

- 61-1** Please see Section 1.7.2 where comments on the emergency response plan were addressed.
- 61-2** Please see Section 1.7.3 where comments on the increased use of the incinerator were addressed.
- 61-3** Please see response to comment 39-19.
- 61-4** Please see Section 1.7.3 where comments on the effects of the Proposed Action on traffic were addressed.

Nottingham, Valerie (NIH/OD/ORS)

From: Darel L. Seibert, D.C. [drdarel@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2004 9:37 PM
To: ORS RMLEIS (NIH/OD/ORS)
Subject: RML accident 2/7,8/2004

Valerie Nottingham,

Regarding safety measures at RML, the proposed upgrade to BSL-4 EIS indicates that we the Hamilton Montana community and neighborhood citizens have NOTHING to worry about regarding accidents at your installation.

You are abundantly aware at this point that there are instances when your protocols and the installation in general are subject to error. You understand that issues of lack of notification when breaches occur is entirely possible and has occurred in this accident at RML on 2/7,8/2004.

Your attempt to convince the residents of the Hamilton Montana area that these types of accidents do not occur has been breached. You understand that we are concerned and understand that the loss of the laboratory animals is example of how accidents can and will happen.

Our questions pertaining to the safety measures, emergency plans, and general what ifs are grounded in our beliefs that accidents can and do happen.

The simple fact that the accident of 2/7,8/2004 occured is not the only factor here. The fact that the security personel were not notified, and therefore the accident propagated is alarming. This is blantant oversight and irresponsibility on the behalf of RML.

Sincerely, Darel L Seibert, D.C.

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